

For immediate release

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Representative Roy Hardemon Files Bill to Ensure Sex Offenders Convicted of Taking Advantage of Defenseless Victims Will Get More Than a Slap on the Wrist

Miami, FL – Freshman State Representative Roy Hardemon (D-Miami), who represents House District 108, has filed his first bill in the Florida Legislature, HB 317 – Sentencing for Sexual Offenses.

If enacted, HB 317 would ensure that anyone convicted of sexually assaulting someone who is unconscious, asleep, or incapable of giving consent because of intoxication will get more than just a “slap on the wrist.” They could not be granted probation, community control, parole, conditional release, control release, or any other form of early release, nor could they receive a suspended sentence.

This bill is similar to one recently signed into law in California as a result of the highly publicized Stanford University rape case where the defendant, Brock Turner, was sentenced to just six months in prison and three years of probation after being found guilty on three counts of sexual assault for attacking a woman who was unconscious. Turner was released early after serving only three months of his sentence.

“Unfortunately, right now many sexual assaults go unreported because the victims believe that their attacker won’t be held responsible to the fullest extent of the law,” stated **Representative Hardemon**. “This bill will guarantee that the punishment fits the severity of the crime. There is never any excuse for sexual assault and survivors should never have any doubt that their attacker will be held accountable for their despicable actions.”

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